

built their clubhouse which is still standing. They later abandoned the clubhouse to meet in homes.

Used Boxcar as Workshop

Through the help of Mrs. McKimmon, Farm Agent Hendricks and interested citizens, the work progressed. Miss Hallie Veile, who later married Ted Miller, helped the women can tomatoes using a boxcar in Taylorsville as the location for the workshop. The women were eager to learn. It wasn't just canning; it was an opportunity to do something and to be recognized.

In 1928 the county commissioners—Sid Earp, Hugh Oxford, and Oliver Looper—felt that Alexander County was ready for a full-time agent and appropriated the money for this program. Miss Marie Coxe (later Mrs. Matheson), the first full-time home demonstration agent, came to Taylorsville, September 8, 1928 and immediately went to work on her educational program. With the help of John Robinette, sheriff; Lynne Mays, clerk of court; and Marcus Stone, county superintendent of schools, who helped her locate the 42 county schools; and Hugh Osburn, county agent, who lined up her work for her, she held her first meeting at Duck Creek.

This was the time of the great depression. Every effort was made to get the farm people to produce more and store up food for winter. Mrs. Ted Miller assisted Miss Coxe in every way possible, accompanying her to every school in the county. County roads were horrible and only the undaunted would travel them in the winter; but Miss Coxe couldn't be stopped. She and her new Chevrolet could be seen at any time on any road. It was a familiar sight to see Miss Coxe unload her three-burner oil stove, leveling tools, portable oven, and necessary supplies at one of the schools. Every child was eager to learn. Even the boys wanted to learn how to make some of "them fancy biscuits." This was the beginning of 4-H work in Alexander County. The slogan for club work at this time was: "When you're green, you grow."

Another of the first clubs organized was the Rocky Springs Club. One of its first members was Mrs. W. A. Sharpe who was recognized in 1958 for her many years in club work.

Mrs. Marie Coxe Matheson was the first

home demonstration agent and worked in the county from 1928 to 1931. The work was discontinued until 1934 when Mrs. Ester W. Donnelly began work but she stayed only a short time. Miss Atha Culberson served as part-time agent in Alexander and Caldwell counties December 1, 1935 to July 1, 1936.

Home Improvement Stressed

Miss Ester Gordon followed Miss Culberson as full-time agent August 10, 1936 and continued her service to August 15, 1937. Having a full-time agent made it possible to organize Extension work in more communities over the county and to reach more people. The major project for the women in 1937 was home improvement including kitchen arrangement and conveniences, window curtains, sanitation and refinishing furniture.

Agnes Williams began her work August 16, 1937 and for the next 32 years the Agnes Williams Watts charisma was manifest everywhere. Club members began doing the unusual things: visiting historical and educational places, developing arts and crafts, learning new artistic stitchery, planning and furnishing beautiful homes, cooking exotic foods, learning better techniques for more efficient everyday living and reading more for a fuller life.

Linda Best came to work on December 15, 1969 carrying on in the footsteps of her able predecessor. Linda now devotes much of her time to 4-H work and serves as advisor on clothing to Extension homemakers and others.

Janie Shipley started work on September 15, 1972, giving us two young, enthusiastic and efficient leaders. Their backgrounds and experience have added new dimensions to Extension homemaking in Alexander County.

County Leaders

The following homemakers have served as County Council presidents:

Mrs. P. E. Johnson; Mrs. Conway Sharpe, 1941-42; Mrs. Perry Lowe, 1943; Miss Annie Bell Allen, 1944-45; Mrs. Carl Motsinger, 1946-47; Mrs. Maurice Grant, 1948-49; Miss Annie Norton, 1950-51; Mrs. Paul Thomas, 1952-53; Mrs. Elbert Bowman, 1954-55; Mrs. Oren Sharpe, 1956-57; Mrs. L. W. Davis, 1958-59; Mrs. Wade Campbell, 1960-61; Mrs. Dwight